

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the following line of text on page 14, line 19, of the specification:

strength function α_k . When σ_k (i.e., the square root of

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Please amend the following line of text on page 15, line 13, of the specification:

standard deviation of each block are computed by a the Mean

Please amend the following line of text on page 18, line 17, of the specification:

pixels (other block sizes can be used). The mean m_n and

Please amend the following line of text on page 20, line 9, of the specification:

compensated as $\tilde{d}_0 = d_0 + K \cdot (d_0 - (m_0 - 0))$, wherein \tilde{d}_0 denotes

Please amend the following line of text on page 20, line 18, of the specification:

parameter K is empirically determined. Preferably in this